

Community Meeting 14 Oct 2025

Chairs : Marnie Jones, Jenifer Black

Guest : Stuart Riley (VASLAN)

30 members

Purpose

To update since last meeting and find out structure of next steps to EGM with assistance of SR

SM stated he was there as an independent advisor for both WATIF board and members. He will not chair EGM but will be present to support. Meeting board tomorrow with feedback from tonight's meeting.

Update

Since last meeting, letter was sent from members to board setting out what we wanted. Was firm due to previous attempts to secure information and answer questions had been ignored. EGM has been agreed. Board requested further clarification and insisted on a very tight timeline for response. Very good effort by all involved to respond in time. – Mon 13th

Some felt that the language used in communications from the board was unnecessarily formal and would be better kept in simpler terms to engage community.

Prior to EGM

Only members can vote at EGM so please ensure you are a member by submitting form

WATIF's website has had recent additions of information – such as Strategy Policy. Monthly Income and Expenditure accounts are on website. Encouraged members to go to meeting pre-prepared with questions relating to specifics and based on facts.

New Trustee names have been put forward .They require to be nominated by 2 members and submitted before Saturday. Must understand and accept their legal responsibilities. They must also get PVG as board works with vulnerable members of public.

EGM

Agenda for meeting is being set by WATIF. SR reassured there would be opportunity for discussion when each resolution was discussed.

Members do not have right to remove board. There is no obligation for them to step down even if there is a vote of no confidence passed.

Non members can attend and speak but not vote

New trustees should prepare to introduce themselves and read a bio.

Resolution 1 will be considered a Special Resolution and will require 2/3 majority of the member votes on the day (including proxy and postal votes)

Resolution 2 is standard and requires 51% majority of member votes on day

If Resolution 1 does not succeed, there can be a blended board of existing and new trustees. Up to 15 can be on board (11 voted and 4 co-opted)

These resolutions must be voted on and decided at this meeting. Any new resolutions arising from meeting will need to go through same process of notification and meeting requests.

SR encouraged meeting to look at big picture rather than details.

Ideal to have community highlighting some issues of concern – eg lack of community consultation, examples of not being heard, use of out of date and high level survey

Maybe conversation around dissolving the charity

Be constructive, respectful and to the point. One at a time

Not for discussion – Employment conditions/individuals salaries/ data protection matters

NDA at board meetings are not common, SR not come across before

After meeting

If required, old board including chair needs to handover to new board. Given level of distrust of the board, this would require VASLAN to facilitate

Other discussions and comments

Timeframe we are looking at for information and clarification is from start of Loanhead. We know things have gone wrong – why? What Governance was in place at time (eg procurement process)? How were decisions made? What controls were there?

So much money being spent on LH, are there records of applications for funds which have been declined? Are criteria for grants and funding clear? Are people put off applying because they claim they are hard up? 'Bank of Mum & Dad' comment is inappropriate. Community Groups meeting discussed possible donations to halls. Was then rolled out with no further consultation.

When questions asked about Cow Byre and going to community to ask opinions, trustees stated no need as they were basing it on old survey.

Minutes from one board meeting stated a project was 'using money from reserves, but keep confidential as it will worry people'

Community engagement is not allowed to happen.

Money tight in other areas, hundreds of thousands being spent at LH

WATIF being run as power led business – employing lawyers to deal with this matter

Action Points

Prepare constructed questions in preparation for meeting

Leaflets to be distributed and pass word around about EGM

Facebook page updated.

Info regarding membership forms/proxys/new trustees/postal voting to be published

Form of voting to be asked for (show of hands preferred)

Check if accounts audited

We will make things better going forward – we won't give up !!